

T H E
PALESTINE EXPLORATION FUND.

NOTES AND NEWS.

THE Fifty-sixth Annual General Meeting of the Palestine Exploration Fund was held in the Rooms of the Society of Antiquaries, Burlington House, Piccadilly, on Wednesday, June 29th. The Chair was taken by the Right Honourable Viscount Bryce, P.C., O.M., D.C.L., etc., who gave an interesting address upon the manifold importance of Palestine, and the necessity of pursuing archaeological investigations more assiduously. Mr. Ormsby-Gore touched upon certain political aspects of the present situation, and the Rev. Father Waggett spoke of the perilous state of things across the Jordan—from an archaeological point of view. The Hon. Treasurer drew attention to the very inadequate means which the Fund has at its disposal if it is to avail itself of the opportunities now open to it. Dr. Hogarth gave a lantern lecture on Askalon. A full account of the proceedings is given below, pp. 123-133.

Much interest has been caused by the news telegraphed from Jerusalem that the Fund's excavations at Askalon have resulted in the discovery of the famous cloister round the great court built by Herod the Great. Josephus describes the wonderful workmanship of this, one only of the many splendid edifices due to the king's ambition; and it will be remembered that Herod himself, according to some of his enemies, was of Philistine origin, whence perhaps his interest in Askalon. The telegram states that statues of Apollo, Venus and Victory, and a giant statue of Herod have been found,

and we shall look forward to further and fuller information from the Director of the Excavations.

The Phaestos disk has attracted some attention in *Notes and Queries*, and in the issue of March 19 (p. 237), other suggestions are cited from Rev. Blaikie's *The Sea Kings of Crete* (p. 264). Further, Mr. Monckton of Victoria, British Columbia, sends an explanation suggested by his acquaintance with Indian picture-writing. He undertakes to say that "if it was submitted to one of the old Indians who were skilled in picture-writing, he would read it at once as a connected story." He then ventures upon an interpretation which he has been good enough to send us. For the present it must be confessed that although some of the old Egyptian palettes, for example, seem to represent the stage towards actual description, the Phaestos disk, when interpreted as picture-writing, does not seem to contain any narrative of importance to justify the care and trouble which the original artists devoted to the disk. In the meanwhile, without prejudging Mr. Monckton's interesting suggestion, we are able to print in this issue the result of Prof. Macalister's fresh investigation of the curious symbols.

We regret to learn of the death of Mr. Herbert E. Clark, of Jerusalem, an authority on palaeolithic and neolithic flints, of which he had a well-arranged collection. Mr. Clark was well known to tourists, especially Americans, and as recently as the last number of the *Quarterly Statement*, sent a communication on the question of crocodiles in Palestine. A few years ago he also sent photographs of some interesting pottery remains discovered at Tell el-Ful (*Quarterly Statement*, 1915, pp. 35 sqq.).

We also regret to hear of Archdeacon Dowling's death at the advanced age of eighty-three. He was an assiduous writer upon the Eastern churches, and contributed a number of interesting papers on antiquarian and ecclesiastical subjects in 1896, and from 1907 onwards. He was appointed Archdeacon in Syria in 1906, and retired and came to live in England in 1914, where he continued to carry on his literary work. He was in the midst of the preparation of a book on *Crusaders in the Holy Land* when, at the end of 1915, he was stricken with an illness from which he never recovered.

An interesting discovery of archaeological importance and made by M. Adolphe Carnot is recorded in the *Comptes rendus de l'Académie des Sciences* (Vol. CXV., pp. 243-337). This savant (according to M. Sidersky's report to the Société Asiatique, Dec. 10, 1920) has indicated a scientific method of determining the age of bones exhumed from the ground. It is based upon the relative quantity of fluorine and phosphates, the fluorine increasing according to the length of time the bones have been in the ground. By a simple chemical analysis it is possible, so it is said, to determine the age of bones or the geological epoch to which they belong.

A series of four interesting articles on conditions in Palestine and future economic possibilities appears in *The Times* of April 28, May 6, 17 and 18.

In the April issue of the *Revue Biblique*, pp. 247-277, Father Vincent contributes a valuable monograph on the "Synagogue des affranchis" discovered at Jerusalem, some account of which was given in the *Quarterly Statement*, January, pp. 22 *sqq.* Having had the advantage of access to the excavations conducted by Capt. Weill and M. de la Roque, Prof. Vincent writes with all authority, and his article is now the most substantial study of this most interesting "find." He subjects the text to an exhaustive and penetrating examination, and gives a full discussion of the archaeological and historical background. He is not attracted by M. Clermont-Ganneau's comparison of the palaeography of this text from Ophel with the inscription in the Temple of Herod, a comparison which has important consequences for dating the former.

The Dean of the School of Arts and Sciences at the University of Beirut sends us the system of transliteration there in use. Apropos of this it may be mentioned that the British Academy appointed a committee "to draw up a practical scheme for the transliteration into English of words and names belonging to the languages of the Nearer East" (*Proceedings*, Vol. VIII); and that a permanent committee on geographical names for British official use is in existence in connection with the Royal Geographical Society.

Mr. W. J. Phythian-Adams, M.A., D.S.O., M.C., writes in the *Asiatic Review* on "The Future of Excavation in the Holy Land." In spite of all that has been done and is now projected, innumerable opportunities remain, and all that is needed are funds for the tasks which lay before the excavator. He closes his survey with the following remarks on the newly created Department of Antiquities in Jerusalem :—

"One of the first acts of the new High Commissioner was to request Prof. J. Garstang, Director of the British School of Archaeology in Jerusalem, to organise a service of Antiquities for Palestine. This work has now been completed, and the 'Antiquities Ordinance of 1920' was published in the *Official Gazette* of October 15. The most interesting feature of the new Department has been the appointment of an Archaeological Advisory Board, composed of representatives of British, American, French, Italian, Jewish, and Moslem interests.

"The Director consults the Board with reference to :—

- (a) All applications for permits to excavate.
- (b) The regulation of excavations in the city and district of Jerusalem.
- (c) The conservation of historical buildings.
- (d) International questions, and so forth.

"Every effort is being made to encourage and facilitate research and to secure the harmonious co-operation of all whose interests lie in the past and future of the Holy Land.

"In addition to this and its other more 'passive' work of organization and supervision, the Department is undertaking, through its inspectorate, the registration of all historical sites in Palestine. This is a work which cannot be completed in a day, but the survey which Conder and Kitchener so admirably carried out serves as a basis for the new investigators, and the use of a card-index for the codification of their results will facilitate their labours and make these more accessible to the student.

"In all respects, then—and it may be said without reserve—the archaeological future of Palestine is a bright one. The work before us is immense, but the opportunity is proportionately great. Money only is lacking, and when the conditions which at present rule us relax their hold, we may hope to see

the veil withdrawn from that mysterious past which has ever tantalized and fascinated the world."

The Hon. Secretary of the British School of Archaeology in Jerusalem (Mr. Charles E. Mott) has issued an appeal for contributions to the Library.

"The British School of Archaeology in Jerusalem has now commenced its very important work of training the skilled staff necessary for the proper care, exploration, and study of the monuments and ancient sites of Palestine. Our library is still very far from complete, and as there must be many who possess books relating to Egypt, Palestine, Arabia, Greece, and the Eastern Mediterranean, which they seldom consult, but which would be invaluable to the school, I venture to appeal for gifts of such volumes, and all other works relating to Palestine and the surrounding countries, including the history of the Mohammedan invasions and of the Crusades, and books of travel. Especially I would ask for the journals and other publications of the Egypt Exploration Society, the British School of Archaeology in Egypt, the British School at Athens, the Hellenic Society, and of other similar societies. Any such gifts should be sent to me at 2, Hinde-street, Manchester-square, W., or I would arrange to collect them."

The Jerusalem correspondent of *The Times* (June 1) writes on the present position of Archaeology in Palestine. In the course of an important statement, from which we are allowed to quote, he remarks that after the liberation of Jerusalem, "over 120 cases of antiquities were discovered, ready packed for transport, which had lain hidden in the city during the war. Some of these had formed the nucleus of local collections in other days, while others seem to have been the fruits of recent excavations. There was no catalogue, and the provenance of each object had to be studiously determined by reference to publications and by comparative methods. These difficulties have been overcome by Mr. Phythian-Adams, of the British School of Archaeology; over 6,000 objects have been catalogued, and a central museum will probably be opened to the public this summer." Local museums are to be encouraged, at Acre, Askalon, Tiberias, etc., all under one "Keeper of Museums."

"In Jerusalem objects of architectural character and larger sculptures will be grouped, if possible, within the Citadel, where rooms in the Hippicus Tower have been prepared." Further, "all excavations on archaeological sites are to be forbidden unless undertaken by properly authorized scientific bodies." Meanwhile, at Acre, "progress has been made with clearing the *débris* from the crypts of the fine medieval buildings for which it is famous. Certain repairs have strengthened the well-known tower at Ramleh, which was in a dangerous condition." The mosaic at Ain Duk has been cleared by the French Archaeological Society (Ecole Biblique de St. Etienne), under Père Vincent, and found to be the site of a very ancient and interesting synagogue. "When the mosaic was exposed it was found necessary for its preservation to take it up. This was skilfully done by Mr. MacKay, and it will probably be arranged within the Citadel. Other conservation on a smaller scale has been done at Jifna, Ramallah, Tiberias, and Caesarea." As regards the future, it is expected that the Franciscans will excavate the site of the synagogue at Tell Hum (Capernaum). Bethshean, Megiddo and Samaria are, it is anticipated, to be taken in hand by the Universities of Philadelphia, Chicago and Harvard respectively.

Palestine (June 18) reports that the work at the Tiberias excavations has been resumed by the Hebrew Archaeological Society. "Very important discoveries are being made, all tending to verify the assumption made by Prof. Housch at the beginning of the work that the building discovered was an ancient magnificent Synagogue. An additional hall has now been discovered containing eleven marble columns carved in Jewish style, also boards, benches and Mosaic and Jewish inscriptions. The most important discovery is that of a seven-branched Menōrah with carved flowers, shoots and buds. There are great expectations of further very important discoveries."

The Committee would be very glad if subscribers would be disposed to present to the Fund sets or volumes of the *Memoirs of the Survey of Western Palestine* and also of the *Quarterly Statement*.

Mr. E. J. Pilcher has kindly prepared a catalogue of the Fund's collection of coins, and in order to make it more interesting has

been good enough to present the following coins and electrotype copies:—

Coins:

- Silver dirhem of Harun al-Rashid.
- Silver Turkish 5 piastre piece, 1884.
- Copper coin of Constantius Chlorus, father of Constantine.
- Copper coin of Constantine the Great.
- Copper coin of Constans I.
- Turkish copper coin, 20 paras, 1855.
- Turkish copper coin, 10 paras, 1858.
- Turkish copper coin, 5 paras, 1879.
- Egyptian, 10 paras, 1870.
- Turkish billon piastre, 1843.

Electrotype Copies of:

- Silver Tetradrachm of Antiochus Epiphanes.
- Silver Tetradrachm of Ascalon, with portrait of Cleopatra.
- Silver Stater of Tarsus (Pharnabazus) with Aramaic inscriptions.
- Copper coin of Byblus, with Phoenician inscription.
- Copper coin of Sidon, with Phoenician inscription.
- Copper coin of Sidon, showing car of Astarte.
- Copper coin of Laodicea, showing shrine of deity.
- Copper coin of Philadelphia, showing chariot of Herakles.
- Copper coin of John Hyrcanus, with Hebrew inscription.
- Copper coin of Antigonus, with Hebrew inscription.
- Copper coin of Second Jewish Revolt, with Hebrew inscription of Eleazar the Priest.

Fifty Years' Work in the Holy Land: A Record and a Summary, 1865-1915.—Under this title the late Colonel Sir C. M. Watson, K.C.M.G., etc., gave an entirely new revision of that *résumé* of the work of the Fund which has been issued from time to time in order to furnish readers, and—especially—new subscribers with a synoptical account of the more important aims and achievements. Although space allows the book to provide only the bare outlines of what has been done, the material is so arranged as to include all information necessary to explain the different expeditions and excavations. A map is also appended containing all the important names and sites. There are two appendices: the chronology of the

P.E.F., and the chronology of the publications. The book is published by the Committee of the Fund, and can be had on application to the Assistant Secretary. Price 3s. 6*d.*; postage 6*d.* extra.

Subscribers will recollect that the map of the Negeb or Wilderness of Zin, which should have accompanied the 1914-15 Annual, had then to be withheld from publication owing to the War. The Committee are glad to announce that the map has now been prepared for the Fund by the War Office, and a copy will be supplied gratis to those Members desirous of procuring it to complete their record of the 1914 Survey. Applications should be addressed to the Assistant Secretary.

Photo-relief map of Palestine: This popular little map, which is reproduced by collotype process from the well-known raised maps, has been reprinted and is now on sale. It measures (with margin) 29 x 19 inches and contains some hundreds of Biblical names. The price to subscribers is 2s. 6*d.*, and to non-subscribers 3s.; postage 6*d.* extra.

The Committee have brought out a new edition of the ($\frac{3}{4}$ in. to the mile) Map of Western Palestine, of which the original edition has been for some time out of print. It is in two large sheets, and is, primarily, a traveller's map. The roads and railways constructed since the original survey have been added. For the sake of clearness, only the modern names are given. The hill shading is in a lighter tint for the same reason. All the country beyond that actually surveyed is shown in outline only. In a few years it may be possible to add much of this in a further edition. In the meantime, this is the clearest map and the easiest to consult of any yet issued by the Society. The price of the complete map is 7s. 6*d.* If desired, the map can be mounted on linen to fold, 15s. 6*d.* Subscriber's price, 6s. unmounted and 13s. mounted; postage 6*d.* extra.

The Library of the Palestine Exploration Fund contains many duplicate volumes, including standard works by Robinson, Ritter, Stanley and others. They may be had separately, and a list, with the price of each volume, has been prepared, and can be obtained on application.

The list of books received will be found below, pp. 120-122.

The Committee will be glad to communicate with ladies and gentlemen willing to help the Fund as Honorary Local Secretaries.

It may be well to mention that plans and photographs alluded to in the reports from Jerusalem and elsewhere cannot all be published, but they are preserved in the office of the Fund, where they may be seen by subscribers.

Members are reminded that subscriptions are payable in advance and are now due for 1921.

The Committee gratefully acknowledge the following special donations towards the Askalon excavations:—

	£	s.	d.
A. E. Franklin, Esq.	25	0	0
H. Van den Bergh, Esq.	25	0	0
George Mathieson, Esq.... ..	10	0	0

Subscribers to the Fund are reminded that, whilst the receipt of every subscription and contribution is promptly acknowledged by the Assistant Secretary, they are now published annually. A complete List of Subscribers and Subscriptions for 1920 was published in the Annual Report, issued with the April number.

Golgotha and the Holy Sepulchre was the last work of the late Major-General Sir Charles Wilson, K.C.B., K.C.M.G., F.R.S., D.C.L., LL.D., etc. In this work the former Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Palestine Exploration Fund has brought together for the first time all the evidence which the most exhaustive research enabled him to collect bearing on the subject of these Holy Sites. Probably no man living had at once so intimate a knowledge of all investigations in the modern Jerusalem and so complete an acquaintance with what has been written about the Sites from the time of Constantine onwards. The price of the work (demy 8vo) is 7s. 6d., by post 8s.

A complete set of the *Quarterly Statements*, 1869–1910, containing some of the early letters (now scarce), with an Index, 1869–1910, bound in the Palestine Exploration Fund cases, can be had. Price on application to the Secretary, 2, Hinde Street, Manchester Square, W. 1.

The price of a complete set of the translations published by the Palestine Pilgrims' Text Society, in 13 volumes, with general index, bound in cloth, is £10 10s. A catalogue describing the contents of each volume can be had on application to the Secretary, 2, Hinde Street, Manchester Square, W. 1.

The Museum at the office of the Fund, 2, Hinde Street, Manchester Square, W. 1, is open to visitors every week-day from 10 o'clock till 4, except Saturdays, when it is closed at 1 p.m.

Please note that the Library and Museum will be closed to the public from Saturday, August 27th to Saturday, September 10th, inclusive.

Subscribers in U.S.A. to the work of the Fund will please note that they can procure copies of any of the publications from Prof. Elihu Grant, Honorary General Secretary to the Fund, Haverford College, Pa.

The Committee have to acknowledge with thanks the following:—

The Jews in Egypt and in Palestine under the Fatimid Caliphs, by Jacob Mann; and *Early Judaism*, by Laurence E. Browne. (Presented by Dr. E. W. G. Masterman.)

The Near East: March 17: Christianity and Islam, by Rev. L. G. Egerton Smith; March 24: The Eastern Mandates; Nazareth, by Martin S. Briggs; April 7: Great Britain and Palestine; April 21: St. George of England, by Estelle Blyth; April 28: The Call of Babylonia; May 19: A Moslem story from Jerusalem, by Estelle Blyth.

The Journal of Egyptian Archaeology, April 1921: Egypt and the External World in the time of Akhenaten, by Dr. H. R. Hall; Magan, Melukha and the Synchronism between Menes and Naram-Sin, by Dr. Allwright.

Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute, July-Dec., 1920.

The Expository Times.

The Palestine Weekly.

Palestine: The Organ of the British Palestine Committee.

Zionist Review.

Journal of the Society of Antiquaries of Ireland, Dec., 1920.

Scottish Geographical Magazine, April, 1921.

Hatikvah: Belgian Zionist Bi-monthly.

American Journal of Archaeology, 1921, I.

- Jewish Quarterly Review*, April, 1921: Review of Biblical Literature, by Dr. J. Hoschander; Review of Jewish Medicine, by Dr. S. S. Cohen.
- Journal of the American Oriental Society*, Feb., 1921: An Assyrian law-code, by M. Jastrow.
- Post-biblical Hebrew Literature: An Anthology*, Vol. I, Texts, notes and glossary; Vol. II, English translation. By B. Halper, M.A., Ph.D., Dropsie College, Philadelphia. (Jewish Publication Society, 1921.)
- American Journal of Philology*, 1921, No. 165: The Greek of Paul's Epistles compared with the Epistle to the Hebrews, by D. A. Penick.
- Art and Archaeology*, April, 1921: Smyrna, "The Infidel City," by G. Horton.
- Homiletic Review*.
- The Hebrew Christian Alliance Quarterly*, April, 1921.
- Transactions of the Royal Canadian Institute*, February, 1921.
- Revue Biblique*, April, 1921: Discovery of the "Synagogue of the Libertines," by Prof. L. H. Vincent.
- Journal Asiatique*, Oct.-Dec., 1920: Review by M. Huart of Maspero and Wiet's *Matériaux pour servir à la Géographie de l'Égypte*.
- Palästina-Jahrbuch*, 1920. By Prof. Gustaf Dalman.
- Palästina-Literatur*, Vol. III, 1910-1914. By Peter Thomsen.
- Jüdisch-Palästinisches Corpus Inscriptionum*, by Dr. S. Klein.
- Eretz Israel* (Land of Israel), Past and Present, by D. ben Gorion and J. ben Sabi, New York, 1921. (Yiddish.)
- NEA ΣΙΩΝ, Jan., on the excavations at Ashkelon, by Δ; Feb., Arabic literature on Palestine.
- Al-Mashrik*: March, Les derniers Martyrs Franciscains dans le Wilayet d'Alep; Le Christianisme et la Littérature Chrétienne avant l'Islam, by Father L. Cheikho, S.J.; La Conquête de Mahdia (1551); Un Sultan Jésuite, by P. Louis Charles, S.J.; May, a building by Justinian at Beirut, by Fathers Cheikho and Monterde; June, The two martyrs of the Lebanon, Sheikhs Philip and Farid Khazen, by Mgr. Abdallah Khouri; The Tomb of Esdras on the Euphrates, by Mr. Jos. Ghanimeh.
- See also below, pp. 146-151.

The Committee will be glad to receive donations of Books to the Library of the Fund, which already contains many works of great value relating to Palestine and other Bible lands.

The Committee will be grateful to any subscribers who may be disposed to present to the Fund any of the following books :—

The Memoirs of the Survey of Western Palestine.

The Quarterly Statement, from 1869 up to date.

Duc de Luynes, *Voyage à la Mer Morte* (1864) ; published about 1874.

K. von Raumer, *Der Zug der Israeliten.* (Leipzig, 1837.)

Lagarde, *Onomastica Sacra* (1887).

The Antonine Itinerary—an edition by Parthey and Pindar was published in 1847 at Berlin. An edition in Russian is also extant, but is therefore not available save to the few who know that language.

Prof. Flinders Petrie's *Tell el-Hesi (Lachish)*.

New Edition of the Babylonian Talmud English Translation. Original text edited, formulated and punctuated by Michael L. Rodkinson. Revised and corrected by the Rev. Dr. Isaac M. Wise. Published by the New Amsterdam Book Company, New York. Vol. I, *Sabbath*, already in the Library, subsequent volumes wanted.

Whilst desiring to give publicity to proposed identifications and other theories advanced by officers of the Fund and contributors to the pages of the *Quarterly Statement*, the Committee wish it to be distinctly understood that by publishing them in the *Quarterly Statement* they do not necessarily sanction or adopt them.

FORM OF BEQUEST TO THE PALESTINE EXPLORATION FUND.

I give to the Palestine Exploration Fund, London, the sum of _____ to be applied towards the General Work of the Fund ; and I direct that the said sum be paid, free of Legacy Duty, and that the Receipt of the Treasurer of the Palestine Exploration Fund shall be a sufficient discharge for the same.

NOTE.—*Three Witnesses are necessary to a Will by the Law of the United States of America, and Two by the Law of the United Kingdom.*